Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for controlling backlighting, comprising:

continuously measuring ambient light conditions with a light sensor;

producing a continuous light-level signal in response to the continuous measuring by the light sensor;

producing a continuous feedback signal in response to the continuous light-level signal; and

producing a signal for driving backlighting in response to the continuous feedback signal such that the driving signal drives the backlighting in proportion to ambient light.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the continuous feedback signal is produced by summing the continuous light-level signal and a voltage reference signal at a first input node of an amplifier.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the voltage reference signal is produced by a bandgap voltage reference.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the continuous feedback signal is provided by coupling an output of the amplifier to a second input pin of the amplifier.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the continuous light-level signal is produced by supplying current from the continuous feedback signal to the light sensor.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the continuous light-level signal is produced by resistively coupling the driving signal to the light sensor.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the driving signal is produced by a switching circuit and an inductor, wherein the switching circuit operates in response to the continuous feedback signal.

8. (Original) A circuit for controlling backlighting, comprising:

means for continuously measuring ambient light;

means for producing a continuous light-level signal in response to the continuous measuring by the ambient light measuring means;

amplifier means for producing a continuous feedback signal in response to the continuous light-level signal; and

means for producing a signal for driving backlighting in response to the continuous feedback signal such that the driving signal drives the backlighting in proportion to ambient light.

9. (Original) The circuit of claim 8, wherein the continuous feedback signal is produced by summing the continuous light-level signal and a voltage reference signal at a first input node of the amplifier means.

10. (Original) The circuit of claim 9, wherein the voltage reference signal is produced by a bandgap voltage reference.

11. (Currently amended) The circuit of claim 9, wherein the continuous feedback signal is provided by coupling an output of the amplifier means to a second input pin of the amplifier means.

12. (Currently amended) The circuit of claim 8, wherein the continuous light-level signal is produced by supplying current from the continuous feedback signal to the ambient light measuring means.

13. (Original) The circuit of claim 8, wherein the continuous light-level signal is produced by resistively coupling the driving signal to the ambient light measuring means.

14. (Currently amended) The circuit of claim 8, wherein the driving signal is produced by a switching means and an inductor, wherein the switching means is arranged to operate in response to the continuous feedback signal.

15. (Currently amended) A circuit for controlling backlighting, comprising:

a light sensor that is arranged to continuously measuring ambient light conditions;

a resistor that is arranged to produce a continuous light-level signal in response to the continuous measuring by the light sensor;

an amplifier that is arranged to produce a continuous feedback signal in response to the continuous light-level signal; and

a driver that is arranged to produce a signal for driving backlighting in response to the continuous feedback signal such that the driving signal drives the backlighting in proportion to ambient light.

16. (Original) The circuit of claim 15, wherein the continuous feedback signal is produced by summing the continuous light-level signal and a voltage reference signal at a first input node of the amplifier.

17. (Currently amended) The circuit of claim 16, wherein the continuous feedback signal is provided by coupling an output of the amplifier to a second input pin of the amplifier.

18. (Currently amended) The circuit of claim 15, wherein the continuous feedback signal is coupled to the light sensor.

19. (Currently amended) The circuit of claim 15, wherein the driving signal is produced by a switching circuit and an inductor, wherein the switching circuit is arranged to operate in response to the continuous feedback signal.